

of all nations of the world, Iraq. Think about it. This next chart shows our imports from Iraq. They were very small through 1997. In 1998, they began to jump up. The specifics are, in 1998 we imported 300,000 barrels a day from Iraq; currently, we are importing 700,000 barrels a day. How quickly we forget that in 1990 and 1991 we fought a war with Iraq. We lost 293 American lives. There were 467 wounded. There was a cost to the American taxpayers of approximately \$7.4 billion.

What have we done since then? We have enforced a no-fly zone. That is very similar to an aerial blockade.

What has it cost the taxpayers of this country since the war? It has cost the taxpayers approximately \$10 billion just to keep Saddam Hussein fenced in.

The American press does not even print this anymore. We get the figures from the French press of what is going on over there. Enforcing the no-fly zone in Iraq has required more than 240,000 sorties since the end of the gulf war at an average cost of \$7 million an hour. We have flown 21,000 missions since 1998. We have bombed them on more than 145 days since Desert Fox in December of 1998. Since December of 1998, Iraq reports 295 of their citizens have been killed and 860 wounded in airstrikes. Airstrikes on Iraq occur almost daily. Where are we looking for oil? Iraq. What kind of a foreign policy does this administration have?

Saddam Hussein seems to be deliberately luring us, sadistically using his own people as bait, into killing innocent Iraqis for sympathy to lift the no-fly zone. At the same time, he is dramatically increasing his own military capacity. What is happening? He is smuggling out an awful lot of oil. What is he using the funds for? Every Member of this body should get a classified briefing from the Intelligence Committee and find out for themselves what he is doing. It is a very dangerous situation with which we are going to have to reckon at some point in time, and God help us.

U.N. sanctions certainly have not done the job. What we are doing with Saddam Hussein is rewarding him. Iraq will export \$8.5 billion in oil this year, and it is estimated the smuggling will generate approximately \$400 million which goes to enrich Saddam Hussein and goes to his Republican Guard which keeps him alive.

Think about it. We are looking to Iraq for our oil. What is Iraq looking towards? This is a bizarre pattern.

If we think about it, it is fairly simple. It is so simple that I hope my colleagues will reflect on its significance. He uses the money we send him for new arms—new biological technology—we take his oil, and we fill our warplanes. And what do we do? We go bomb him. Then we buy some more of his oil, send him some money, and the process starts all over again.

We are spending billions and billions of dollars to contain Iraq's expansion, and billions and billions of dollars to

permit Iraqi expansion by increasing their refining capacity. As we do this we are risking the lives of American service men and women, our security, the security of our allies, and the American way of life, if you will, pursuing an energy policy which can only end in a tragedy.

I think today my colleagues who have joined the leader in the introduction of the National Energy Security Act of 2000 have put forward an energy plan, an energy policy. It is up to the administration now to match it. Because so far the only thing the administration has done is to come out with six very weak short-term actions: to help prevent power outages which would terminate the generation to Federal water projects; it would encourage price increases; it would explore the opportunities for the inventory of generators held by the private sector; it would conduct emergency exercises; it would work with the utility industry to update information; and prepare public service announcements.

What kind of an energy policy is that?

I see my good friend, the junior Senator from Texas, seeking recognition.

Mr. President, how much time remains on our side?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Two and one-half minutes.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. I yield the remainder of our time to the Senator from Texas.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas is recognized for 2½ minutes.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Alaska for heading the task force that put together a balanced approach, with a clear goal—a simple goal—of reducing foreign oil dependence in the United States of America to under 50 percent by the year 2010, so that 10 years from today we could have what I think is a very modest goal of 50-percent capability in the United States of America to produce the oil and gas needs of our country.

It does not take a rocket scientist to see what has been happening to oil prices over the last 3 years. First, we went down so low that the little guys could not make it. We lost thousands of small well producers because they could not make it on \$10-a-barrel oil. They could not meet their expenses. So they went under and they capped the wells.

When a well is capped, it is almost impossible to reopen it because it is so expensive. These are wells that produced 15 barrels a day or less. We are not talking about gushers. We are not talking about thousands of barrels a day, which some do produce in other parts of the country. We are talking about 15 barrels a day, a barely break-even proposition at any price, but certainly not at \$10.

What we are trying to do is take the artificially low prices and the ridiculously high prices that we see today be-

cause we are dependent on foreign imported oil, and say: What will allow us to stabilize these prices? What will allow us to stabilize these prices is exactly what is in the bill we are introducing today and which we hope Congress will act on before we leave; and that is, we encourage the little guys by giving them a floor—just as we do farmers—when prices go below \$17 a barrel. We would just give them a tax credit so they could stay in business.

The Senator from Alaska talked about many of the other parts of this bill. I hope we can have bipartisan support so we can stabilize the prices for consumers in America and jobs in our country.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask for a clarification from the Chair.

It is my understanding that the Republican side of the aisle was given 45 minutes in morning business, and they were to complete that at 10:15. But they started a little late, and now it is after 10:25. I want a clarification that the Democratic side, in morning business, will be given the entire 45 minutes allocated.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I hope I do not have to object. I do want to resume my military construction bill at 11 o'clock, as in the previous order.

Mr. DURBIN. If I might respond to the Senator from Montana, his colleague from Alaska started late. He was to start at 9:30. He started about 10 minutes late. We have waited over here until the Senator from Texas, the Senator from Alaska, and the Senator from Idaho all had their chance to speak. I think we have accommodated them. We only want to use the 45 minutes we were allocated in morning business.

Mr. BURNS. I have no objection.

Mr. BIDEN. I have no objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. I don't know if the Senator from Delaware has a request at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous rule, the Senator from Massachusetts has 35 minutes and the Senator from North Dakota has 10 minutes.

The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allotted 10 minutes, in addition to the time that is available.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, of the 35 minutes allotted to the Senator from Massachusetts, I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from California, Mrs. BOXER, have 5 minutes and that I

be allocated 5 minutes, and then the Senator from North Dakota be recognized for his 10 minutes, and then the Senator from Massachusetts for the remainder of his time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. I thank our assistant floor leader, Senator DURBIN, for arranging this time.

THE MILLION MOM MARCH

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I had a tremendous honor this weekend to march in the Million Mom March, along with about 750,000 citizens of this great country. They were moms; they were dads; they were grandmas and grandpas; and children in strollers.

We really all had in our hearts one wish for Mother's Day—to turn around the gun violence that is plaguing our Nation.

It was quite a march. It was quite an event because the emotion was high. The spirits were high. Perhaps the most touching part of it, for me and for many others, was the presence of so many moms and dads whose families have been touched by gun violence, whose children have been killed by gun violence, cut down by gun violence, maimed by gun violence.

The victims were there with a message: That they want to make sure other families never have feelings of pain and loss and anguish which will last all their lives.

I am embarrassed to say to my constituents that this Congress has done nothing—nothing at all—to reduce gun violence in our country. After Columbine, we passed five sensible gun measures—very modest, good, sensible gun measures—such as making sure every handgun is sold with a safety lock, and others that are very sensible: closing the gun show loophole so that a mentally imbalanced person or a criminal cannot walk into a gun show and simply be handed a gun—hand the cash over and get the gun with no background check.

We know the background checks work, but they don't apply to gun shows. So Senator LAUTENBERG offered a very important amendment and it was added to the juvenile justice bill to close that gun show loophole. Vice President AL GORE cast the tie-breaking vote. We know that will keep guns out of the criminals' hands. But what has happened in this Senate? Nothing. The power of the gun lobby can be felt in this Chamber—the power of the money of the gun lobby, the power of the threat of the gun lobby, and the gun lobby rules in this Senate, the gun lobby rules in the House of Representatives, and the gun lobby says if one of the candidates is elected President—namely, George Bush—they will run an office out of the White House.

Mr. President, enough is enough. Let's look at the deaths from gun violence in our country. There were 58,168

deaths in Vietnam over 11 years. They were tragic deaths. People were cut down in the prime of their lives. In 11 years, there were 58,168 deaths. Let's look at the last 11 years in America—the war on our streets, the war in our schools and, yes, even the war in our churches and Jewish community centers, where gunmen come in and cut people down in the prime of their lives; and they cut children down. There were 395,441 gun deaths in the 11-year period.

Now, we stopped the war in Vietnam—Democrats, Republicans, Independents, people of every race, color, and creed. We stopped that war. We can stop this war. But I will tell you, it isn't going to be easy. The gun lobby is not going to make it easy. We have to have courage. There are those of us in this Senate who are going to be on this floor from now on, in the name of the million moms who marched with the dads, the grandmas, the grandpas, and the children. We are going to be here. We are going to be here day after day. We are going to force this Senate to look this issue in the eye, to look families in the eye, to bring out the five sensible gun control measures that are in the juvenile justice bill. What excuse is there since Columbine High School, where 13 people were killed? Thirteen kids are killed every day.

Thank you, Mr. President. We will be back on this issue.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois is recognized.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I thank my colleague from California. Every day in America, 13 mothers receive a phone call or a knock on the door, a word from a neighbor, and their lives are changed. Every day in America, 13 mothers learn that one of their children has been killed by a gun. Every day in America, 13 mothers have a pain in their heart that will be there for a lifetime.

This last Sunday, I went to Chicago, IL, on the banks of Lake Michigan. Our Million Mom March chapter came together, and thousands of people came out. They were inspired, of course, by the fact that it was Mother's Day and that we were addressing this issue because it is a family issue, and especially an issue that mothers take to heart because mothers, by their nature, protect their children. They came forward on the banks of Lake Michigan in Chicago and here on The Mall in Washington, DC, and in Los Angeles, and in cities across America, to say: Let us protect our children; protect our children from the gun criminals who menace our neighborhoods, our communities and our schools; protect our children from the gang bangers who spray these bullets from semiautomatic and automatic weapons across playgrounds, day care centers, and bus stops; protect our children from careless gun owners who insist on their constitutional right to own a gun but will not accept their moral responsibility to store it safely away from children; protect our children from a gun

lobby in this town that has made a mockery of democracy, which owns this Chamber and owns the House of Representatives, which stops us in our tracks; protect our children from the indifference of millions of American families who know what I say is true but who didn't come to the march, who don't call a Congressman or a Senator and just shake their heads and say, "It's politics, it's hopeless; they don't listen, they don't care."

The Million Mom March was an inspiration to so many people. It was an inspiration to me because at the end of the march in Chicago, the Bell Campaign, which sponsored it, invited the families of gun victims to come forward and literally ring a bell for their victim. They started coming slowly from the crowd, and then the numbers increased. The procession went on and on and on—black, white, brown, men, women, brothers and sisters, sons and daughters, breaking down in tears as they pealed that bell for a gun victim.

I stood there, as a Member of the Senate, humbled by that experience, trying to imagine for one brief moment what it must be like to receive that telephone call or that knock on the door. I vowed I would come back to this Chamber this week and begin a personal campaign, a personal crusade to make the Senate act on this issue. To think that it is 1 year after Columbine and we have done nothing—we have not passed a bill to keep guns out of the hands of criminals or kids; we have been totally stopped by this gun lobby—it is a disgrace, a disgrace to this Chamber, to the Congress, and to this country. The million moms who came forward are watching and waiting and praying that before this ends, we will do something.

The National Rifle Association bought a full-page ad in the Washington Post Friday criticizing the Million Mom March. Here is what they said: "It is a political agenda masquerading as motherhood."

I have a message for the National Rifle Association. This was no masquerade; this was the real thing. These were real families who have endured the pain and suffering of gun violence. They are coming forward and challenging you, gun lobby, National Rifle Association, and challenging us in the Senate and in the House to do what is right for America, to reduce gun violence, reduce the pain, and reduce the suffering.

There is no excuse for the fact that, for 1 year, the Republican leadership in the House and Senate has refused to bring a bill to the floor so we could vote and send to the President a bill to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and kids. You will hear more about this issue.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota is recognized for 10 minutes.